



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Housing: Question on Tenure (H-17)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT TENURE

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) uses these data to examine whether owner- and renter-households assisted by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program are treated equitably.
- HHS also uses these data to assess the need for housing assistance for low-income, including elderly low-income, households.
- Builders and contractors use these data to develop business plans.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

17 Is this house, apartment, or mobile home –

☐ Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan?

☐ Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?

☐ Rented for cash rent?

☐ Occupied without payment of cash rent? → Skip to **C**

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TENURE DATA

- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992

[<www.census.gov/acs/www>](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

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Helping You Make Informed Decisions



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HISTORY OF THE TENURE QUESTION

- The question on tenure has been asked since 1890.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

Tenure is the most basic feature of the housing inventory, and these categories are necessary to classify occupied units as either owner-occupied or renter-occupied. Homeownership rates have served as an indicator of the health of the country's economy for decades.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

<cmo.acs@census.gov>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

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